



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 04 August 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

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<http://chrome.osis.gov/questionnaire>

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Daily Highlights

- Reuters reports power grid operators in the U.S. Mid–Atlantic and Midwest expect demand for electricity this week to exceed records set last week as hot, humid weather blankets the regions. (See item [1](#))
- AuctionBytes reports eBay's PayPal unit has launched a set of "Identity Theft Protection" educational resources aimed at helping users protect their identity. (See item [14](#))
- KRGVTV reports portable radiation monitors to detect dirty bombs are being installed at the McAllen International Bridge in Hidalgo, TX. (See item [19](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *August 03, Reuters* — **Grids see record power demand.** Power grid operators in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Midwest expect demand for electricity this week to exceed records set last week as hot, humid weather blankets the regions. The grid operators noted that even though generation supplies were ample, the unexpected loss of a major power plant or transmission line could cause them to take emergency steps to manage the flow of energy on the system. Even though the grid operators had taken only minimal steps to maintain reliability, like canceling planned generation and transmission work, several utilities called on customers to conserve energy. "We have ample supplies and no problems at this point, but are monitoring the system very closely. Things can change pretty quickly," said a spokesperson for PJM Interconnection, which operates the nation's biggest power grid, serving more than 51 million people in parts of 13 Mid-Atlantic and Midwest states. "We have good generation availability and have not activated our demand response programs, but we have notified participating customers to prepare" for the possible activation of the programs, said Carol Murphy, spokesperson for the New York ISO, which operates the state grid for more than 19 million people.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=URI:urn:newsml:reuters.com:20050803:MTFH69335_2005-08-03_17-00-24_N03692900:1

2. *August 02, San Diego Regional Energy Office* — **New study finds large potential for renewables in San Diego region.** A scientific study conducted by a group of energy experts has found a large potential to develop renewable energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal in the San Diego, CA, region by 2020. The study did not consider cost or policy issues, which will ultimately determine how much of these resources are developed. The study examined the potential in San Diego and Imperial counties and in the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico, including the possibilities for development of wind power, solar energy, geothermal, biomass resources, and hydroelectric power. "This report provides a starting point for the next logical steps in renewable energy development for the San Diego region, including policy formulation and implementation of renewable development," said Dr. Alan Sweedler, Director of the Center for Energy Studies, at San Diego State University. The report estimates that it could be possible to generate more than 5,000 megawatts from solar panels during periods of peak use, and that while there are only limited wind systems in the San Diego region right now, the study shows that wind energy could be a robust electricity resource. The group noted that renewable resources need to be part of a balanced portfolio of energy options for the region.

More information on the study: <http://www.renewablesg.org>

Source: <http://www.sdenergy.org/NewsDetail.asp?ID=47&ContentID=42>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *August 03, Hickory Daily Record (NC)* — **Tanker flips, spills 400 gallons of gasoline.** A gasoline tanker truck overturned on North Carolina Highway 18 on Tuesday morning, August 2, shutting down the highway overnight. The tanker was carrying about 9,000 gallons of gasoline, more than 400 of which spilled in the accident. North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) crews were called in to repair parts of the road. Bryan Blanton, manager of Catawba County Emergency Medical Service, said Highway 18 would remain closed until at least Wednesday morning, August 3, while DOT crews repave the portion of the road where the gasoline spilled. Drivers were detoured onto North Carolina Highway 10 and Old Shelby Road. At least five homes were voluntarily evacuated but no one was injured. The driver of the truck was treated at Grace Hospital in Morganton, NC, for minor injuries. Several fire departments, emergency medical services crews and emergency services workers responded to the accident. Hazmat crews from Charlotte, NC, were called in to assist.
Source: http://www.hickoryrecord.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=HDR%2FMSGArticle%2FHDR_BasicArticle&c=MSGArticle&cid=1031784219326&path=%21news%21localnews
4. *August 03, nbc3i.com (OH)* — **Gas line rupture forces evacuation of several homes.** Crews were working to restore gas service to dozens of homes after a construction crew struck a gas line in Orange Township, OH, on Wednesday, August 3. Homes within 1,000 feet were evacuated. Construction crews said they were digging holes to lay the foundation for playground equipment when they hit a 2-inch line and ruptured it. Firefighters said gas shot into the air, spraying dirt and hissing. Suburban Natural Gas was called to the scene and workers from there dug two holes and clamped the gas line on the other side of the leak. About 20 people were forced to leave the area, including construction workers, landscapers and residents. "Any time there's flammable gas in the area, any ignition source is the potential for hazard," said Worthington Fire Department Capt. Patrick Mulligan. "That's why we evacuated such a large area. The wind was blowing at a pretty constant rate so it was dissipating the gas and the concern for immediate hazard wasn't that great."
Source: <http://www.nbc4i.com/news/4803302/detail.html>
5. *August 02, The Plain Dealer (IL)* — **Some homes evacuated after anhydrous ammonia leak.** An anhydrous ammonia leak at Cropmate Monday, August 1, caused a few homes in Urbana, IL, to be evacuated as a precaution. One Urbana woman was taken by family members to Wabash County Hospital to be checked out for possible anhydrous exposure. The ammonia leak, reported at 4:53 p.m., was found to be caused by a loose valve in a nurse tank. The Urbana Fire Department was able to shut off the leak within minutes. Assisting at the scene were the Wabash County Sheriff's Department and the Wabash County Emergency Management Agency.
Source: http://www.wabashplaindealer.com/articles/2005/08/02/local_news/local5.txt
6. *August 02, Associated Press* — **Fort Worth plant fire ruled accidental.** A fire that destroyed a Fort Worth, TX, chemical plant was ruled an accident Monday, August 1. Four people were injured in the fire and explosion Thursday at Valley Solvents & Chemicals in an industrial area of north Fort Worth. Lt. Kent Worley, a Fort Worth fire department spokesman, said the blast happened as workers unloaded methanol from a transport truck. Worley said the extent of the damage made it difficult to determine the exact cause of the fire. Nobody was killed in the intense fire, which sent a black plume of smoke into the air before burning itself out hours later.

Worley said investigators do not plan to examine the site, which will be cleaned up by a hazardous materials company. The company's insurance providers planned to review the fire.
Source: <http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=3671396&nav=Bsmgcr2> U

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *August 02, Federal Computer Week* — Apogen acquired by British defense contractor.

Continuing a push into the U.S. defense and security market, British defense contractor QinetiQ, will buy McLean, VA-based Apogen Technologies for \$300 million in cash, both companies announced on Tuesday, August 2. Pending approval from federal regulators, Apogen will be the third major U.S. acquisition in the past year for the defense technology and security company. Last fall, QinetiQ acquired St. Louis-based Westar Aerospace and Defense Group and Foster-Miller, an engineering and technology development company based in suburban Boston. Apogen will become a wholly owned subsidiary of QinetiQ North American, but it will remain autonomous and retain its name, management team and staff. Apogen, a private company with 900 employees and \$205 million in revenues last year, specializes in enterprise architecture, software development and integration, and building and operating networks in the federal technology and national security sectors. The acquisition is expected to be completed in September.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article89768-08-02-05-Web>

8. *August 02, Associated Press* — Man hacks into Army computers to increase business. A man who hacked into government computers to drum up business for his computer security firm was sentenced to 60 days in a work-release program. U.S. District Judge John S. Rhoades also placed Brett Edward O'Keefe on probation for two years, ordered him to perform 100 hours of community service and instructed him to refrain from doing any work involving computer security while he's on probation. O'Keefe, a co-founder of ForensicTec Solutions, O'Keefe pleaded guilty earlier this year to one misdemeanor count of gaining unauthorized access to U.S. Army computers in September 2003.

Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/4800377/detail.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *August 03, Associated Press* — Hackers and foes exchange ideas at conference. At the 13th annual DefCon conference held July 29–31 in Las Vegas, NV, where some of the world's best hackers network with federal agents, ideas about making the Internet more secure were exchanged. This year, hot topics included a demonstration of how easy it may be to attack supposedly foolproof biometric safeguards, which banks, supermarkets and even some airports have already begun to rely on. Also at the conference was Robert Morris, former chief scientist for the National Security Agency (NSA), who warned of the vulnerabilities of banks' teller machines, which he predicted would become the next "pot of gold" for hackers. Morris said thieves had been able to seize people's bank cards and find out their passwords by changing the

software in old ATMs bought through eBay for as little as \$1,000 and placing the machines in public venues.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/08/02/business/hacker.php>

10. *August 03, La Vista Sun (NE)* — **Officials assist business in identity theft.** Identify theft, tips to protect one's personal information and how to recognize counterfeit money were among the topics at the Business Watch program Thursday, July 28. Organized by the La Vista Police Department and La Vista Chamber of Commerce, officials from the Nebraska Attorney General's office, U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and U.S. Secret Service (USSS) talked about identification protection to the business community. Susan Howell, of the Nebraska Attorney General's office, spoke of tips to protect personal information including: not giving personal information over a mobile phone, shredding all documents with personal information, mailing outgoing bills from a public mailbox and not from home, not leaving a paper trail of receipts behind and not carrying a social security card, birth certificate or passport. USSS agent John Gutsmedl showed how to detect counterfeit money. Gutsmedl suggested business owners purchase an ultra violet light to detect features made in legitimate money. Counterfeit money glows bright white. He also said to pay attention to the feel of the paper, serial numbers, micro printing, security thread, watermarks and color shifting ink in the paper money, especially in bills made after 1996.

Source: http://www.lavistasun.com/site/tab5.cfm?newsid=14964689&BRD=2712&PAG=461&dept_id=556329&rfti=6

11. *August 03, CNET News* — **Antiphishing group casts line at new threats.** Faced with a rise in pharming and crimeware attacks, the Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) will expand its charter to include these emerging threats. The shift may serve as a harbinger, raising the question of whether phishing will eventually become passe — despite the current rise in phishing incidents. "Over time, as banks get a better grip on fighting conventional phishing that uses social engineering, phishers will be forced to find other vectors of attack," Peter Cassidy, secretary general for the APWG, said Wednesday, August 3. Conventional phishing campaigns reported to the group rose less than half a percent to 15,050 in June over the previous month, according to the group. But pharming attacks climbed six percent to 526 cases in the same period and crimeware cases soared 95 percent to 154, according to the APWG. With the rapid rise in crimeware, which is spyware designed to steal identities rather than just monitor online behavior, the group this month launched "Project Crimeware." The project will investigate malicious software that steals consumer, government and corporate access credentials with the aim of launching attacks, stealing identities or engaging in financial fraud.

Information of Project Crimeware and June Phishing Activity Trends Report:

http://antiphishing.org/APWG_Phishing_Activity_Report_Jun_05.pdf

Source: http://news.com.com/Antiphishing+group+casts+line+at+new+threats/2100-7349_3-5816919.html?tag=nefd.top

12. *August 02, The Register (UK)* — **Spear phishers launch targeted attacks.** Customized malware attacks are becoming more commonplace with virus-laden e-mails up 50 percent in the first half of 2005 despite a decrease in volumes of spam and simple computer viruses, according to an IBM security report. According to IBM, targeted attacks against specific organizations and industries — geared towards stealing critical data, identities or extorting money — are on the rise. Government, financial services, manufacturing and healthcare

industries are all targets of these attacks. IBM has also seen a resurgence of targeted phishing attacks for money laundering and identity fraud purposes. These attacks are becoming more focused with so-called 'spear phishing' — highly targeted and coordinated attacks at a specific organization or individual designed to extract critical data — increasing more than ten-fold over the first half of 2005. Although fraudulent phishing e-mails rose, volumes of spam decreased from 83 percent in January to 67 percent in June 2005. Meanwhile, incidents of virus-laden e-mails increased from one in every 51 emails in December 2004 to one in every 35 in January 2005 and one in every 28 by June 2005, according to IBM's Global Business Security Index Report.

IBM report: http://www-1.ibm.com/services/us/bcrs/pdf/wp_security-intelligence.pdf

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/08/02/ibm_malware_report/

13. *August 02, Bank Systems and Technology* — **Fraud schemes becoming increasingly sophisticated.** According to Tom Lekan, senior vice president and chief security officer for Cleveland-based KeyBank, "The most interesting part [about bank fraud] is the criminals' continuing ability to find any holes to create bank fraud." Once one security hole is closed, criminals quickly adapt and move to others, he explains. For example, card issuers largely have rendered "cloned" cards unusable and thwarted that type of fraud by adding coded information to the magnetic stripes of cards that is unknown to consumers. In response, many scammers have moved on to defrauding third-party payment providers, which, despite pressure from several banking groups, currently aren't regulated. Despite phishing attacks, check fraud continues to be one of the biggest problems the industry faces. In addition, scams that have been around for many more years than e-mail, such as the Nigerian banking scam and the Canadian lottery scam, continue to target bank customers. One form of fraud that is experiencing a resurgence is mortgage fraud, according to Charles Freeman, chief credit officer for Long Beach Bank. Mortgage fraud, or illegal flipping, occurs when a home is bought and quickly resold via multiple exchanges of the property at constantly escalating prices among a collaboration of scammers.

Source: http://www.banktech.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=167_100404

14. *August 02, AuctionBytes* — **PayPal launches identity-protection resources.** eBay's PayPal unit has launched a set of "Identity Theft Protection" educational resources aimed at helping users protect their identity. PayPal and eBay are among many Websites spoofed by fraudulent phishing e-mails. The new resource features tips, including a printable checklist of steps that should be taken to help prevent identity theft, a guide for determining how to spot a fake e-mail or Website, and recommended tools for protection from fraudulent e-mails and Websites, including eBay's free Toolbar and Cloudmark's SafetyBar.

PayPal's identity theft educational resources:

<https://www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=xpt/cps/general/IdentityProtection-outside>

Source: <http://www.auctionbytes.com/cab/abn/y05/m08/i02/s03>

15. *August 01, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **U.S. Department of the Treasury hails passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury Monday, August 1, praised the passage of a United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) further tightening global sanctions against the Taliban, al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. The resolution renews and strengthens UNSCR 1267 against the Taliban, and carries with it the consolidated list of terrorists tied to the Taliban, Osama bin Laden and al

Qaeda. Inclusion on the 1267 Committee's list triggers international obligations on all UN member countries, requiring them to freeze the assets and prevent the travel of listed individuals and to block the sale of arms and military equipment. The Resolution clearly defines "association" for purposes of aggressively targeting the networks supporting the Taliban, Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, reauthorizes the 1267 Committee's Monitoring Team, endorses standards by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and obliges states to report on specific actions taken to implement designations through the adoption of an Annex reporting form capturing the effects of prospective designations.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js2667.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

16. *August 03, Associated Press* — **Northwest Airlines flight attendants ask FAA to examine plan for replacements.** Flight attendants at Northwest Airlines asked the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to investigate the airline's plans to replace them if they follow mechanics into a strike later this month. In a petition filed with the FAA on Tuesday, August 2, the flight attendants said they were concerned that safety and security information was being released to non-employees — namely, flight attendant trainees who have not yet been hired. That "should raise concerns for the FAA and the flying public in a post-9/11 world," said Peter Fiske, a spokesperson for the Professional Flight Attendants Association. Mediated talks between Northwest and its mechanics resumed on Tuesday in Washington, DC. The mechanics will be free to strike on August 20. The airline has vowed to keep flying. "If a union chooses to strike the carrier or engage in job actions with the intent of causing disruption at some point in the future, Northwest must be prepared to protect its operations," the company said in a statement. "Accordingly, Northwest has developed contingency plans including expanding vendor relationships and, in some cases, augmenting staff."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-02-northwest-strike-plan_x.htm

17. *August 03, Associated Press* — **Air France crash in Toronto likely weather-related.** Investigators said Wednesday, August 3, a heavy rainstorm accompanied by lightning and strong winds was a factor that caused an Air France jet to skid off a Toronto runway and burst into flames, prompting 309 passengers and crew to slide down escape chutes in an evacuation that took less than two minutes. The black boxes of Flight 358 from Paris will be retrieved Wednesday, investigators said. The plane skidded off the runway at Lester B. Pearson International Airport while landing at about 4 p.m., local time, Tuesday in a pounding storm. The airport was under a "red alert," which indicates potential for lightning but does not prevent planes from landing or taking off, officials said. Brian Lackey, vice president of operations for the Greater Toronto Airport Authority, said the Airbus A340 had enough fuel to divert to Montreal or another airport where the weather was better, but "that's the pilot's decision." The evacuation of the passengers and crew took less than two minutes, and the co-pilot was the last to leave the flaming wreckage, airport fire chief Mike Figliola said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2005-08-03-toronto-plane_x.htm

18. *August 03, News4Jax (FL)* — **Asian shipper puts Jacksonville in top tier of ports.**

Jacksonville, FL, Mayor John Peyton joined officials with the Jacksonville Port Authority and

the Japanese shipping line Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd., on Wednesday, August 3, for a groundbreaking of the line's new \$200 million facility at the Dames Point Marine Terminal. Mitsui O.S.K. Lines operates the second largest shipping fleet in Japan and its U.S. subsidiary is one of the world's largest multi-modal shipping companies. Mitsui is signing a 30-year lease agreement for the 160-acre container-handling facility with two piers capable of loading and unloading two large ships at the same time. When complete in late 2007 or early 2008, the facility is expected to double the number of containers moving through the port of Jacksonville. "This clearly puts us in the top tier of ports," said Jaxport Executive Director Rick Ferrin. Much of the impact will be the opening of Asia to the port of Jacksonville. Until now, all Asian goods have come into the United States through California, Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC. Because so much of what Americans buy comes from Asia, that market has been growing by 8–10 percent every year.

Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/money/4803249/detail.html>

19. *August 03, KRGVTV (TX)* — Border's bridge lanes closed to install new security measures.

Amid mounting tensions along the U.S.–Mexico border, a new homeland security measure hopes to foil terrorists. Channel5News in Brownsville, TX, has learned portable radiation monitors are being installed at an international crossing in the Valley. The measure is costing drivers time as they wait in fewer lanes to cross the McAllen International Bridge in Hidalgo, TX. A spokesperson for the U.S. Customs Agency said some lanes were shut down to install the new devices. The equipment will be used to detect dirty bombs — a mixture of explosives and radioactive material — smuggled into the country.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.tv/2005/8/2/3829/Bridge-lanes-closed-to-prepare-new-security-measures->

20. *August 03, Associated Press* — DHS secretary pays visits to Maine. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff toured the port of Portland on Tuesday, August 2, as part of a two-day visit to learn more about border security challenges in Maine. Chertoff took a tour of Portland Harbor in a Coast Guard patrol boat and visited the port's emergency operations center with U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R–ME), who invited Chertoff to the state. His visit comes as Congress considers how best to allocate homeland security grants among states. On Wednesday, Chertoff was in northern Maine to view the U.S.–Canadian border by helicopter and meet with border security officials in Houlton. Maine's 611-mile border with Canada comprises rugged mountains, thick forests, lakes, rivers, fields and ocean. People cross illegally in cars and trucks, on foot and on snowshoes, in powerboats and canoes, on all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles. For as long as anyone can remember, smugglers have crossed back and forth with drugs, liquor and cigarettes. And even with border agents using four-wheel-drive vehicles, ATVs, snowmobiles and boats, along with cameras and motion sensors, it's impossible to protect the border 100 percent.

Source: <http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050803/N EWS0104/108030034>

21. *August 03, Detroit News (MI)* — Authorities tighten security on Detroit's waterways with new vessel. Law enforcement on Metro Detroit waterways is a little easier for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department thanks to a new 28-foot speedboat purchased through a grant awarded by the Detroit Port Authority. Equipped with two 225 horse-powered engines, night vision, a global positioning system and radar, the boat is a tool to stop illegal activity, such as drunken boating, drug deals and transportation of illegal immigrants. This is the only boat

among the department's fleet of 10 that is equipped for nearly every emergency situation that could occur on the water or nearby shores, said Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans. The Detroit River needs increased security since it's an international border crossing. Officers check for proper safety devices, alcohol violations and unusual activity on a daily basis. Aside from intoxicated boaters, there are also the occasional incidents of what looks to be illegal transportation of immigrants.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/2005/wayne/0508/03/B02-267540.htm>

22. August 02, CNN — NTSB: Most crashes survivable. The apparent successful evacuation of all 309 people aboard an Air France jetliner that crashed Tuesday in Toronto is a dramatic illustration of a theme that the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board has highlighted for years. Contrary to widespread public opinion, most airline accidents are survivable, the NTSB says. "Fatal accidents ... receive extensive media coverage. Nonfatal accidents, however, receive little coverage. As a result, the public may perceive that most air carrier accidents are not survivable," the NTSB wrote in a March 2001 report. Safety experts say that misperception is one reason passengers do not pay attention to the mandatory safety briefings at the beginning of every flight. The NTSB said it studied aircraft accident survivability to address that mistaken belief and identify factors that could further increase survivability. The report attributes many factors as contributing to passenger's survivability: cabin structural integrity, seatbelts, seat design, child restraint systems, fireproofing, exit design and evacuation procedures.

NTSB Report SR-01/01 March 2001: Survivability of Accidents Involving Part 121 U.S. Air Carrier Operations, 1983 Through 2000. <http://www.nts.gov/publictn/2001/sr0101.pdf>

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/08/02/survivable.crashes/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

23. August 03, DM News — USPS Board: without reform, rate increase in 2007. If postal reform legislation does not pass, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) anticipates a further rate increase for 2007 in the mid-single digits, the USPS Board of Governors said Tuesday, August 2. This was part of a statement read by Chairman James C. Miller III at the board's meeting in Newport Beach, CA. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act passed 410-20 in the House of Representatives on July 26. However, the White House's recent threat of a veto if the final bill is not revenue-neutral conflicts with H.R. 22, the House bill, and S. 662, the bill reported out of the Senate committee, Miller said. Consequently, Miller said in the statement that the governors reviewed how the postal service would operate without reform legislation and determined "that we would build on our recent progress in controlling costs and generating revenue." On the fiscal front, chief financial officer Richard Strasser reported a net loss in the fiscal 2005 third quarter compared with the year-ago period as a result of higher fuel and retiree health benefits costs and workload-related increases in volume and deliveries. Further, he said financial performance through nine months is nearly \$250 million behind the net income assumption in the 2005 rate case.

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=33662

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Agriculture Sector

24. *August 03, Illinois Ag Connection* — **Spores found in Champaign county.** A spore trap in Champaign, IL, has turned up four rust-like spores, but plant pathologists are quick to say that this finding does not mean we have Asian soybean rust infection in Illinois. "No infected plants have been found and the spores are the shape of fungal rust spores but they have not yet been identified as Asian soybean rust," said Suzanne Bissonnette, University of Illinois Extension Educator. At this time, she says that University of Illinois Extension recommendations are that farmers south of Champaign County in Illinois and within a 200-mile radius begin diligent scouting for Asian soybean rust on a three day schedule. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's soybean rust forecasting model, spore deposition forecasts show the potential for low levels of soybean rust spore accumulation in Illinois the week of August 1.
Source: <http://www.illinoisagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=603&y r=2005>
25. *August 03, San Francisco Chronicle (CA)* — **Ventura orchard owner accused of smuggling.** The owner of a Ventura, CA, orchard is facing federal charges of smuggling citrus cuttings from Japan to the Bay Area that contained canker — a contagious virus that destroys citrus crops — and were hidden in packages marked "candy and chocolates." Nagatoshi Morimoto, 57, a Japanese citizen, was told that it was illegal to import the citrus budwood cuttings but boasted, "Nobody's gonna catch it," according to an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco. Morimoto was charged Monday, August 1, with a felony count of smuggling goods into the U.S. He was arrested April 8 when he arrived on a flight in Los Angeles. In April 2004, customs officials intercepted three shipments with 450 illegal citrus cuttings at a Daly City mail center serving San Francisco International Airport. The cuttings were destined for Morimoto Orchards in Ventura County, which the defendant owned, authorities said. The government quarantined the site and ultimately destroyed the citrus crop there, authorities said.
Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/08/03/BAGD 7E1VDN1.DTL>

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Food Sector

26. *August 03, Associated Press* — **Suspect cow tests negative for mad cow disease.** A cow suspected of having mad cow disease has tested negative for the brain-wasting ailment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said Wednesday, August 3. Testing by the USDA's laboratory in Ames, IA, and the internationally recognized laboratory in Weybridge, England, came back negative, said John Clifford, the department's chief veterinarian. The USDA ordered additional testing after initial results indicated the disease may have been present in the cow. Officials called those results "non-definitive" and said they didn't resemble normal samples in which mad cow disease is present. The animal had complications while giving birth and died on the farm where it had lived. The cow was burned and buried after a local veterinarian removed brain tissue for testing. The cow died in April, but the veterinarian forgot to send in the sample until last month. There have been two confirmed cases of mad cow disease in the U.S. A Texas cow tested positive in June 2005, and a Canadian-born cow in Washington state tested positive in December 2003.
Source: <http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/12292950.htm>

27. *August 02, Missouri Ag Connection* — **Man sentenced for tampering with food.** An Albers, IL, man was sentenced to a year in prison for packing ammonia-tainted chicken which sent 40 kids at a Joliet, IL, grade school to the hospital three years ago. Prosecutors say Edward Wuebbels changed an agriculture department label on the chicken. The nuggets were repackaged after being shipped from a St. Louis, MO, business where an ammonia leak occurred in 2001.

Source: <http://www.missouriagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=460&y r=2005>

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Water Sector

28. *August 02, Associated Press* — **Officials watching water supplies as Illinois drought lingers.**

With parched cropland already declared a federal disaster area across most of Illinois, state officials are turning their attention to water supplies they fear could be the next drought victims if it doesn't rain by Fall. More shallow private wells could dry up if the drought lingers through August and small municipal reservoirs that pump water into homeowners' taps could soon follow, said Gary Clark, director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' office of water resources. Clark said some private well owners already have been forced to haul in water, lower pumps or dig deeper wells because of the drought that followed the state's second driest spring ever, with only half the typical 11 inches of rain falling. "If the drought continues we would expect to see more problems with shallow wells this summer. If it continues into fall, we could start seeing problems with lakes and reservoirs," said Derek Winstanley, head of the Illinois State Water Survey. Officials say a prolonged drought would ultimately take a toll on wells and small lakes, which have seen levels slowly drop because sparse rains haven't kept pace with heavy demand as homeowners try to revive withered lawns and plants.

Source: <http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/12286034.htm>

29. *August 01, U.S. Geological Survey* — **Report shows how ground water is used from principal aquifers.** Officials from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) looked at the nation's dependence on ground water. The report entitled Estimated Withdrawals from Principal Aquifers in the United States, 2000, provides details of ground water withdrawals and use from principal aquifers in each state. The USGS found that more than 90 percent of ground-water withdrawals are used for irrigation, public supply (deliveries to homes, businesses, and industry), and self-supplied industrial uses. On a daily basis, 76.5 billion gallons are used for these three purposes with irrigation accounting for nearly three-quarters of this amount. California and Nebraska use more ground water for irrigation than any other states; 8,910 million gallons per day in California and 7,050 million gallons per day in Nebraska. The report shows that more than half of the combined ground-water withdrawals for irrigation, public supply and self-supplied industrial water uses are coming from four principal aquifers: the High Plains aquifer, the Central Valley aquifer, the Mississippi River Valley alluvial aquifer along the lower Mississippi River, and the Basin and Range aquifers predominantly located in the desert Southwest. Irrigation is overwhelmingly the largest use of the water from each of these aquifers.

The full report is available online at: <http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/circ1279>

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=847>

Public Health Sector

30. *August 03, Xinhuanet (China)* — **Pig-borne disease outbreak renews urgency for public health security.** The outbreak of the pig-borne epidemic in southwest China's Sichuan Province has again renewed the urgency in improving public health security in the country's rural areas. The epidemic broke out in late June, first in Ziyang and Neijiang, and later spread to ten cities including Jianyang and Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan, China's number one pig production base. By Tuesday, August 2, 205 people in the province had contracted the disease, and 37 had died of it. Investigations found that all the victims had fallen ill or been killed from infection by a kind of bacteria known as streptococcus suis II. The patients, mostly poor farmers, who showed symptoms of poisoning such as fever, headache, shock, and even meningitis in serious cases, admitted having had direct contact with ill or dead pigs. Qu Kunning, director of Sichuan provincial bureau of animal husbandry and food, said that to ensure high-quality pork, efforts should be made to promulgate supportive regulations in tandem with Animal Quarantine Law; standardize quarantine inspection from places of sale and transport to slaughterhouses; intensify supervision overproduction; market and use veterinary medicine; and improve construction of a fodder quality control system.
Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-08/03/content_3305132.htm
31. *August 03, Reuters* — **Scientists say human bird flu pandemic preventable.** Three million doses of antiviral drugs, vigilance, and reducing social contact could contain an outbreak of human avian flu and prevent a global pandemic that could kill millions, scientists said on Wednesday, August 3. Health officials fear the H5N1 strain of bird flu circulating in Asia could mutate into a lethal strain that could rival or exceed the Spanish flu pandemic that killed between 20 to 40 million people worldwide. But two teams of scientists who used computer models to simulate an outbreak of a mutated strain capable of spreading between humans in Thailand believe with careful control strategies and a mobile stockpile of anti-flu drugs it would be possible to stop an influenza pandemic. For the plan to work, the initial cluster of infections would have to be picked up before it reaches 50 cases, said Professor Neil Ferguson, of Imperial College London. Healthy people living in the infected area would need to be treated with Roche Holding AG's antiviral drug Tamiflu. Schools and workplaces may also need to be closed and travel restricted to prevent the spread of the virus. Scientists at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, constructed a similar computer model. Their research was based on a rural population of 500,000 people. Their results, came to similar conclusions.
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=1005003>
32. *August 03, Pittsburg Tribune-Review (PA)* — **Immunization drill to practice preparation for emergency.** About 80 people received shots of Pneumovax in two hours Tuesday, August 2, at the South Side Senior Center, in Pittsburgh, PA, in a mass immunization drill. But in the event of an avian flu pandemic or bioterror attack, health workers must be ready to immunize more than 8,000 people an hour, said Daniel Swayze, director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's prehospital care program. "Our goal is to figure out how to be better prepared for an emergency," said Swayze. Paramedics — who might be the first on scene and most readily available in disasters in outlying areas such as those affected in the 2003 Hepatitis A

outbreak in Beaver County — were enlisted to deliver the vaccine, Swayze said. First came the mock release of a biological weapon and rapid training and deployment of paramedics and other health workers. Then nearly 200 seniors received real pneumonia shots at senior community centers in Brighton Heights, Sheraden, Homewood, and the South Side. Holding temporary clinics like this at dispersed locations could limit the spread of disease and help to prevent a secondary terrorist attack at a central location where large numbers of people gather to seek medical care, Swayze said.

Source: http://pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/trib/pittsburgh/s_359787.html

33. August 02, Agence France Presse — Russia begins mass cull as bird flu spreads in Siberia.

Russia's agriculture ministry said that the H5N1 bird flu virus had been found in a third Siberian province, as officials began a mass cull to contain its spread and three ex-Soviet countries imposed poultry import restrictions. In a written statement the ministry said the virus had been found in the west Siberian province of Tyumen, following an earlier announcement of outbreaks in the Novosibirsk and Altai provinces. Novosibirsk's governor, Viktor Gergert, said on national television that the slaughter had begun of some 65,000 birds in the affected areas of Novosibirsk. In response to the outbreaks, several countries in the former Soviet bloc imposed full or partial bans on poultry imports from Russia. Kyrgyzstan's agriculture ministry said it was banning all poultry imports from Russia, while Ukraine's state veterinary department said it was banning poultry imports from Novosibirsk. Georgia's veterinary inspectorate said it was banning poultry imports from Novosibirsk as well as Kazakhstan, which has already carried out a cull after bird flu was found at a farm close to the Siberian border. Health experts have said the westward spread of bird flu to Russia was predictable, following outbreaks in neighboring areas of western China.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050802/hl_afp/healthflurussia_050802173017;_ylt=AmR52yCitFtNrRuPo6tvCz.JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

34. August 02, Forbes — Military doctors battle infection. Military doctors are fighting to contain an outbreak of a potentially deadly drug-resistant bacteria that apparently originated in the Iraqi soil. So far at least 280 people, mostly soldiers returning from the battlefield, have been infected, a number of whom contracted the illness while in U.S. military hospitals. No active-duty soldiers have died from the infections, but five extremely sick patients who were in the same hospitals as the injured soldiers have died after being infected with the bacteria, *Acinetobacter baumannii*. Researchers are still working to understand where it came from and how patients were infected. Doctors worry not only about soldiers who are already infected but also those who are carrying *Acinetobacter* on their skin even though they themselves are not infected. Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Petersen, an infectious disease specialist at National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) in Bethesda, MD, says his hospital treated 396 patients who had been wounded in Iraq between May 2003 and February 2005. About 10 percent were infected and another 20 percent were found to have *Acinetobacter* bacteria on their skin but were not infected. The same has been true at Army hospitals that include Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, DC, Tripler Medical Center in Hawaii, and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX.

Acinetobacter Information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/aresist/acin_general.htm

Source: http://www.forbes.com/business/healthcare/2005/08/02/iraq-war-infection-bacteria-cx_mh_0802iraqinfect.html

35. *July 29, University of Edinburgh* — **New cleaning process will cut hospital risk of Creutzfeldt–Jakob Disease.** Scientists at the University of Edinburgh have developed a new technique which can rid surgical instruments of the infectious agents that cause Creutzfeldt–Jakob Disease (CJD) in humans. The process is significant because the infectious agents, called prions, are fundamentally different from other kinds of pathogen — such as viruses, bacteria, and fungi — and are very difficult to remove by standard decontamination processes. The new technique can remove contaminating molecules to levels a thousand times lower than those achieved by existing methods. As well as removing CJD–causing prions, the technique destroys the prions which cause scrapie in sheep and mad cow in cattle. The researchers developed a way to use high–energy forms of gas called plasmas to strip contaminating biomolecules from the surfaces of medical instruments. The process involves using radio waves to excite gas molecules, converting the gas into plasma. The plasma scours the surface of the instruments, breaking down any traces of biological tissue and rendering them harmless.
Source: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/050803cjd.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

36. *August 03, University of Washington – Seattle* — **Terror drill tests local emergency readiness.** The city of Seattle and the University of Washington, Seattle, conducted an emergency–response drill on Wednesday, August 3. The drill simulated a large neurotoxin weapon in a high–rise building with mass casualties, according to Steven Charvat, UW's emergency–management director. The city of Seattle is conducting the test because it is required under the terms of a federal grant Seattle received from the Department of Homeland Security. The UW is involved because the drill represents a great chance to test its emergency response team, "especially in this post 9/11–era," said Charvat. More than 500 people from various emergency teams from around the area participated in the drill. The UW's emergency–management team, police, medical center and a few other departments worked with the Seattle police and fire departments, Metro Transit, the Bellevue fire department and the Red Cross.
Source: http://thedaily.washington.edu/news.lasso?–database=DailyWebSQL&–table=Articles&–response=newspage.lasso&–keyField=_Record_ID_&–keyValue=13646&–search

37. *August 03, The Advocate (LA)* — **West Feliciana shows off new communications center.** Officials in West Feliciana Parish in Louisiana gave the public tours of its emergency communications center and a training facility for firefighters Monday, August 1. The \$1.27 million communications center, which includes 911 telephone answering stations and

emergency response dispatchers, opened in February. It will serve as an operations center for various agencies during emergencies, such as hurricanes. The firefighter training center on 16 acres next door also serves as headquarters for West Feliciana Fire Protection District 1, which operates fire stations in the parish's rural areas. Fire Chief Tommy Boyett said the facility will cost approximately \$5 million when a new four-bay fire station and administration building for the Hardwood area is completed. The property includes a headquarters building for the fire protection district, a four-story drill tower for rope, ladder and other vertical training exercises, a two-story "burn building" for teaching fire suppression, a 50,000-gallon draft pit for pumper training and a "rescue maze" for teaching firefighters techniques for maneuvering in darkened, smoke-filled buildings. Boyett said the draft pit will be used to teach firefighters how to operate fire truck pumps without disturbing the area's water system.

Source: http://www.2theadvocate.com/stories/080305/sub_commcenter001.shtml

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. *August 02, TechWeb* — **Terrorists copying hacker tactics.** Cyber-terrorists are trying to break into government networks around the world using the same tactics as run-of-the-mill hackers, a U.S. State Department official said Tuesday, August 2. "The same technique that a hacker would use, the same technology, will be utilized by somebody with a different political motivation," Michael Alcorn, branch chief of the State Department's Office of Anti-Terrorism Assistance, in a statement made to the AFP wire service in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. The Office of Anti-Terrorism Assistance trains foreign law enforcement personnel on a variety of terrorism-related topics, including cyber-security. "The problem we're all facing is a global borderless problem, where attacks can occur anywhere in the world and originate from anywhere else in the world," Alcorn told the AFP. He went on to say that cyber-security problems and resulting terrorist activity was widespread, and claimed that some of the evidence of attacks has come from overseas law enforcement agencies which have confiscated militants' computers. "They're finding evidence on these computers that indicates militants have looked into or are researching this type of technology," Alcorn said.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/167100173#>

39. *August 02, Secunia* — **BusinessMail SMTP denial of service vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been discovered in BusinessMail, which can be exploited by malicious people to cause a DoS (Denial of Service). The vulnerability is caused due to an error in the SMTP service, and can be exploited to cause the service to stop responding via an overly long user name in the "MAIL FROM" command. The vulnerability has been confirmed in BusinessMail version 4.6 (SMTP server 4.61.02). Other versions may also be affected.

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/16306/>

40. *August 02, FrSIRT* — **Computer Associates BrightStor backup agents buffer overflow issue.** A vulnerability was identified in Computer Associates BrightStor ARCserve Backup and BrightStor Enterprise Backup Agents, which may be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands or cause a denial of service. This flaw is due to a stack overflow error when a string with a length over 3168 bytes is sent to port 6070, which may be exploited by unauthenticated attackers to run arbitrary code with SYSTEM privileges.

Solutions: http://supportconnect.ca.com/sc/solcenter/sol_search.jsp

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1305>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: A presentation at Defcon entitled "Live penetration Test of the Backbone" was scheduled to include use of an exploit disclosed by Michael Lynn earlier this week. The exploit is NOT the weak version demo'd by Lynn, but a fully working version that is capable of re-routing traffic, man in the middle and / or dropping the router. EFF lawyers toned down the presentation to avoid ISS and/or Cisco lawsuits. Analysis: There is an exploit. It will fall into the wrong hands. Prepare your Networks.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COUNTERMEASURES If your network doesn't need IPv6, disable it. This will eliminate exposure to this vulnerability. On a router which supports IPv6, disable it by issuing the command "no ipv6 enable" and "no ipv6 address" on each interface.

On those systems that do require IPv6 capabilities check the Cisco advisory information to determine vulnerability and countermeasures.

<http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/707/cisco-sa-20050729-ipv6.shtml>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (----), 445 (microsoft-ds), 27015 (halflife), 6881 (bittorrent), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 3800 (----), 80 (www), 53 (domain), 1433 (ms-sql-s)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

41. *August 03, KRON4 (CA)* — **Public surveillance cameras debut in San Francisco.** Police have a new weapon in their war against crime: surveillance cameras installed on public streets. Two video cameras will cover about six blocks of the Western Addition. The cameras are part of A 90-day program aimed at seeing if they can have an impact on crime in this high-crime area. The cameras are monitored by the Emergency Communications Department, not the police, and the tapes are not reviewed unless there is a crime in the immediate coverage area of the

cameras. The program is being funded with drug money that the San Francisco Police Department has seized. Surveillance cameras have been installed in New York, Detroit, and Chicago. Mayor Gavin Newsom says that if the program is not effective or if residents are against the cameras, it will end in 90 days.

Source: <http://www.kron4.com/Global/story.asp?S=3669110>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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